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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2022 10:05 AM
To: JudTestimony

Lynn m

Senator Winfield, Representative Stafstrom, distinguished members of the Joint Committee on the Judiciary. My name is Lynn Ofori and I am a resident of Wethersfield, and a mother deeply concerned about the current rhetoric around juvenile justice in CT.

I am writing **IN SUPPORT** of:

- S.B. No. 387 AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE JUVENILE JUSTICE POLICY AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE.
- S.B. No. 392 AN ACT CONCERNING STATEMENTS MADE BY JUVENILES.

I am writing **IN STRONG OPPOSITION** to the following bills:

- S.B. No. 365 AN ACT CONCERNING JUVENILE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORMS
- S.B. No. 388: AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEFENSE OF A PERSON OR A PERSON'S DWELLING, PLACE OF WORK OR MOTOR VEHICLE.
- H.B. No. 5418 AN ACT REVISING JUVENILE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE STATUTES AND INSURANCE STATUTES CONCERNING THEFT OF A MOTOR VEHICLE
- H.B. No. 5417 AN ACT CONCERNING JUVENILE JUSTICE AND SERVICES AND FIREARMS BACKGROUND CHECKS.
- S.B. No. 386 AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF THE JUVENILE DELINQUENCY LAWS OF THIS STATE.
- S.B. No. 16 AN ACT ADDRESSING GUN VIOLENCE AND JUVENILE CRIME

I am testifying in opposition to the bills I listed above because rooted in false claims that Connecticut is experiencing tremendously high rates of crime being committed by youth. This is simply not supported by data. This crime rhetoric is being used to cause fear and push for reforms that, in the end, will result in more Black and Brown youth and low-income White youth becoming involved in the juvenile justice system. This will not provide a solution for any issues related to crime in our state.

This issue is important to me because I am a mother of 5, 3 of whom are brown males. I also know the teenage brain is immature and impulsive, and does not always extrapolate to future consequences of actions or decisions. We need to take that into account in the Juvenile justice system. Currently we often hold Black and Brown youth to stiffer standards than white youth, with devastating results.

I agree that citizens should have a right to their private properties, but human life is always more valuable, and our system must center this value with community initiatives to decrease crime by supporting youth holistically, alternatives to incarceration, and programs that support them in fulfilling their human potential

I urge you to SUPPORT S.B. No. 392 and S.B. No. 387 with the recommendations submitted by the Connecticut Justice Alliance. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify today and feel free to reach out if you have any further questions.

Lynn Ofori

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